

# Deer Creek Dam called safe

By Leo Perry

Deseret News staff writer

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PROVO — The expected heavy runoff this spring poses no threat to the long-term stability or the operation of Deer Creek Dam and Reservoir, P. Kirt Carpenter said Tuesday.

"There has been general concern over the threat of flooding," Carpenter, manager of the Bureau of Reclamation's Utah projects office, said. "That concern has led some persons to wonder what effect there might be on the facilities at Deer Creek," he said.

"There will be no effect on Deer Creek Reservoir," Carpenter said. "The operation of Deer Creek is moni-

tored 24 hours a day and the facilities are regularly inspected. It has been consistently rated as a safe dam and there are no known safety problems," he said.

Carpenter said Deer Creek is designed to hold a maximum of 152,700 acre-feet of water. Its outlet works, to which a power-generating facility was added in 1958, allows the operator to release up to 1,500 cubic feet of water per second from the reservoir. A maximum of 12,000 cubic feet per second can also be bypassed through the spillway, he said.

The project's manager said that it is when releases

See DAM on U-2

## Dam

Continued from U-1  
exceed 1,500 cubic feet per second  
that there is a risk of causing erosion  
and other flood-related damage be-  
low the reservoir.

"There may not be high potential  
for flooding on Provo River this year  
if we consider the most recent avail-  
able data," Carpenter said.

Although runoff levels are higher  
due to the saturated ground, snow-  
pack levels on those drainages that  
feed into Deer Creek are only slightly  
higher than average for this time of  
year and are among the lowest in  
Utah, he said.

Hugh McKellar, superintendent of  
the Provo River Water Users Associa-  
tion, which operates Deer Creek,  
indicates that capacity will be main-  
tained in the reservoir in order to

reduce peak flows to manageable  
levels in order to protect project fa-  
cilities downstream, Carpenter said.

"This will have the effect of mini-  
mizing potential flooding all along  
the river," he said.

The dam and reservoir were com-  
pleted under direction of the Bureau  
of Reclamation in 1941 in response  
to the drought of 1931-35 when water  
stored in Utah Lake fell from 850,000  
to 20,000 acre-feet, more than 12 feet  
below compromise level.

Provo and the other communities  
in Utah County, along with Salt Lake  
City, joined with irrigation interests  
to sponsor the project. It has provid-  
ed municipal and industrial and irri-  
gation water and recreation benefits  
ever since, Carpenter said.

attorney to the company indicating  
contract violations.

The council considered an ordi-  
nance to increase the speed limit  
from 20 mph to 35 mph in two areas:  
Seventh East between Main and 50  
North and on Seventh North between  
Seventh East and Ninth East.

Several area homeowners said  
raising the speed limit could lead to  
more accidents and would increase  
danger to children.

The council agreed to maintain  
the 20 mph speed limit in the first  
area and will consider the speed  
change request in the second area  
after a police study.

A proposed fire protection agree-  
ment with Utah County was tabled  
pending further review.

A resolution designating the rede-  
velopment survey area in downtown  
American Fork was approved by the  
council.

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permit for Heritage Mountain.

That permit will allow the devel-  
opers build the resort, but the  
Forest Service will still be involved  
in approving buildings during  
construction.

Developers have met all but one  
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them by the City Council and Plan-  
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**MICHAEL  
MORRIS**

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in Utah County



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